

This was an old version that I was working on. However, the one that is included in this email is my full and accurate testimony. Please disregard the previous one.

Dear Honorable Co-chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, and Distinguished Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Ailene Mavrose and I am from Ashford, CT. I am writing to you in support of HB 5285, An Act Concerning the Public School Curriculum. Along with many important provisions about financial literacy and teaching African American, Puerto Rican, and other history, it also requires Next Gen Science Standards based climate education in all public schools.

I have realized over time and especially when I joined Sunrise that I did not know enough about our environment and the problems that have been caused. My mother has brought some things to my attention over the years and I have been shocked each time. I have been disappointed in myself for not knowing about these serious problems. I can only think for the people who didn't have a guardian to bring these small things to their attention and go through life not thinking that these problems are important and I have heard people saying "these is nothing wrong with our environment". This is unacceptable to me especially after joining Sunrise and it should be changed.

Furthermore, climate education is critical, because as the climate crisis accelerates and worsens, it is becoming clearer that while we are all affected, this issue is not impacting everyone equally. The impacts felt by marginalized and vulnerable groups are and will continue to be far greater and it is critical that the public be educated on these facts.

The climate crisis is recognized as a threat multiplier. Black, Indigenous, Asian and other people of color have been pushed to reside in locations that are more heavily polluted and are more vulnerable to climate related natural disasters such as flooding and hurricanes.

Youth will be inheriting the climate crisis and therefore deserve to learn about this reality and be empowered to understand that most of the solutions to this existential threat already exist. Last year, the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication found that 78% of registered voters support schools teaching students about the climate crisis. With public support growing and the climate crisis worsening, the time is now to mandate climate education for our students.

As such, I ask that you vote yes and support HB 5285.

Regards,
Ailene Mavrose